

people like Jesse, a retired Navy veteran in San Antonio who has applied for over 300 jobs unsuccessfully.

Sadly, some Republicans continue to blame the unemployment problem on the unemployed, even though there are about four people for every job opening in America today. Too many remain jobless, not for lack of wanting to work, but for a lack of work.

Let's continue to encourage more job creation. But for those who lack a job, we also must preserve the lifeline of extended unemployment benefits. It's only the turkey that ought to be carved at Thanksgiving, not the unemployed's ability to share in the bounty of America.

□ 1240

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, today the House considers the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act. I'm a proud cosponsor of this bill because it will protect Americans' Second Amendment rights by allowing citizens who have a valid permit to carry a firearm in any State in the country with a concealed carry law. The Second Amendment applies to law-abiding citizens all across America, and this reciprocity act will protect Americans' rights as they travel throughout the country.

Law-abiding citizens in western Pennsylvania should be allowed to exercise their constitutional rights even when they leave the Commonwealth's borders. All Americans have an individual right to bear arms that is protected by the Constitution.

I urge my colleagues to support the Second Amendment and vote for the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act.

JOB CREATION

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to join with my colleague from Rhode Island, Mr. CICILLINE, in extending my condolences to the family of Julius Michaelson, former attorney general of Rhode Island, a dedicated public servant, someone who truly made a difference to the people of our State. He made a difference, and he will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, next week Americans will be celebrating Thanksgiving with their families. Unfortunately, far too many will be preoccupied with the uncertainty of being unemployed and finding ways just to put food on the table.

Our country currently has a 9 percent unemployment rate, and there are four

unemployed workers for every open job right now. In my home State of Rhode Island, our unemployment rate continues to hold steady above the national average at 10.5 percent.

Madam Speaker, where is the urgency on job creation? The House just returned from its 11th scheduled recess of the year. With only 45 days left until the end of the year, the Republican-led House has failed to take any meaningful action to spur job creation this year.

Our constituents deserve better than this. The American people are demanding more than this. Congress must put partisan politics aside and focus on growing our economy and creating new job opportunities and getting this country back on track. It is our obligation to do this, and we need to do it now.

DETROIT JOBS TRUST FUND

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I am very concerned about reports that the city of Detroit may be running out of money as early as April of next year.

One of the problems Detroit is facing is that too many of our tax dollars are going to pay off debt owed by the city and owed by the schools at the very time we need to put more police officers, more firefighters, and more emergency medical providers on the street; at a time when we need to hire more school teachers and open more schools that will truly educate and graduate our young people.

That's why I'm urging this Congress, this House specifically, to adopt the Detroit Jobs Trust Fund. And I want to thank you personally, Madam Speaker, for the leadership and vision in supporting this legislation which would allow Federal tax dollars paid by Detroiters to be invested in Detroit, invested to cut taxes to make our streets safer and our schools stronger. This will not only help put Detroiters back to work; it will help our country because when you rebuild Detroit, you renew America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1303

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) at 1 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

3% WITHHOLDING REPEAL AND JOB CREATION ACT

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities, to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike title II and insert the following:

TITLE II—VOW TO HIRE HEROES

Sec. 201. Short title.

Subtitle A—Retraining Veterans

Sec. 211. Veterans retraining assistance program.

Subtitle B—Improving the Transition Assistance Program

Sec. 221. Mandatory participation of members of the Armed Forces in the Transition Assistance Program of Department of Defense.

Sec. 222. Individualized assessment for members of the Armed Forces under transition assistance on equivalence between skills developed in military occupational specialties and qualifications required for civilian employment with the private sector.

Sec. 223. Transition Assistance Program contracting.

Sec. 224. Contracts with private entities to assist in carrying out Transition Assistance Program of Department of Defense.

Sec. 225. Improved access to apprenticeship programs for members of the Armed Forces who are being separated from active duty or retired.

Sec. 226. Comptroller General review.

Subtitle C—Improving the Transition of Veterans to Civilian Employment

Sec. 231. Two-year extension of authority of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

Sec. 232. Expansion of authority of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay employers for providing on-job training to veterans who have not been rehabilitated to point of employability.

Sec. 233. Training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disabilities who have exhausted rights to unemployment benefits under State law.